

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 75

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE INDIAN EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ACCESS TO
PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE RAMAH AREA OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the Ramah area of New Mexico encompasses the
southeast corner of McKinley county and portions of Cibola
county and is contained within two public school districts, the
Gallup-McKinley county school district and the Grants-Cibola
county school district; and

WHEREAS, the Cibola-McKinley county line, established as
the official boundary of the Gallup-McKinley county school
district attendance area, is less than two miles east of Ramah;
and

WHEREAS, the nearest public schools for students in the
Ramah area are located in McKinley county, but the majority of

1 students live in Cibola county; and

2 WHEREAS, seventy percent of the students who attend Ramah
3 area schools live outside of the Gallup-McKinley county school
4 district attendance area, and the majority of them come from
5 Cibola county and must travel a distance of from two to twenty
6 miles; and

7 WHEREAS, the Pine Hill school is located only twenty miles
8 southeast of Ramah, but is located within the attendance area
9 of the Grants-Cibola county school district, where the nearest
10 school is situated approximately sixty miles to the northeast;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, students residing outside the Gallup-McKinley
13 county school district boundaries who desire to enroll in Ramah
14 area schools must present a signed transfer request prior to
15 their acceptance stating that additional staff or services are
16 not required by their attendance or that their attendance is
17 required due to class populations exceeding class size limits
18 established by state law; and

19 WHEREAS, the Indian education division of the public
20 education department has access to funds for the completion of
21 a study on the public education situation in the area;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Indian
24 education division of the public education department be
25 requested to convene a task force no later than July 1, 2009 to

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1 study access to public education in the Ramah area; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
3 three representatives appointed by the Indian education
4 division of the public education department, two
5 representatives appointed by the governing body of Ramah
6 village, two representatives appointed by the Gallup-McKinley
7 county school board, two representatives appointed by the
8 Grants-Cibola county school board and two representatives
9 appointed by the Ramah Navajo school board, incorporated; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
11 findings to the appropriate interim legislative committees and
12 to the governor no later than December 1, 2009; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the assistant secretary for Indian education,
15 the governing body of Ramah village, the Gallup-McKinley county
16 school board, the Grants-Cibola county school board and the
17 Ramah Navajo school board, incorporated.